

DR. WILLIAM RICKMAN.

MAY 25, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. HALL, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, submitted the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the representatives of William Rickman, submit the following report :

The petitioners represent that William Rickman was appointed director of the hospital in Virginia in May, 1776, and that he continued in service, in that capacity, until October, 1780, when he was left out of service in the new arrangement of the hospital department, and thereby became a supernumerary officer entitled to the half pay promised by the resolutions of the 3d and 21st of October, 1780, and consequently to the commutation thereof.

It appears, from the journal of Congress of October 21, 1780, that, in pursuance of a request contained in a letter from Dr. Rickman, dated the 4th of that month, he was to be left out of service in the new arrangement of the hospital department, from which the petitioners infer he was to become a supernumerary. No such inference can be drawn from the resolution of Congress. The new arrangement referred to in the resolution was one made by resolves of the 30th of September, 1780, which materially changed the organization of the department but had no connexion whatever with the half-pay provision. The officers in the hospital department were not promised the half pay until January 17, 1781, nearly three months after Dr. Rickman had left the service: of course he could not be included in the promise.

In the report of a committee of the Virginia House of Delegates, made on a petition of the widow of Dr. Rickman, and entered on the journal of the 29th of November, 1783, his service is stated as follows, viz: "It appears to your committee that the said William Rickman was, on the 18th of May, 1776, constituted and appointed by Congress director and chief physician of the hospital in Virginia, in the service of the continent; that the said Rickman continued to act under the said appointment until the 21st day of October, 1780, when he resigned."

Dr. Rickman served in the hospital department over four years; but he was not entitled to the Virginia land bounty, because it had not been promised to officers in the hospital department, but only to *regimental* and *brigade* surgeons. It was, however, granted his widow by special resolutions of the Virginia Assembly in 1783.

The committee recommend that the claim be rejected.

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